



VOL. XXI.

AUGUSTA, MAINE, THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 14, 1853.

NO. 16.



"Our Home, our Country and our Brother Man."

NOTES IN BUTTER MAKING.

It is now nearly a year since butter has commanded a high price. This high price has induced many to make butter, and save the cream more carefully than they were in the habit of doing before.

We do not see that the quality of butter has improved much among us, notwithstanding the increased price. It is probable that in consequence of more people being engaged in the business of making butter, and the probable increase of the grass crop, that the price will be somewhat diminished during the coming season. Nevertheless, good butter will always command a fair, remunerating price, and it should be the study and care of those who manufacture it, to make it as pure and good as they possibly can.

A writer in the last Cultivator, (Albany,) over the signature of W. A. W., speaking of the dairies in Caledonia county, Vermont, gives some good ideas in regard to butter making. After observing that the Scotch farmers in the towns of Ryegate and Barnet, (Vt.) were renowned for their success in the manufacture of butter, and that for a number of years they have been awarded the highest premiums in the Boston market, for the best article produced in New England, he says:—"The Scotch dairy women are very particular and nice in their operations. They do not suffer the milk to sour before taking off the cream. It usually stands from thirty-six to forty-eight hours, according to the state of the weather. After this time, they say, a sort of cheesy substance rises, which makes the butter stringy and tough. The cream is churned at a temperature of 62°—the thermometer being used. The butter is considered best when the process of churning is continued one hour.

When churned too rapidly it is apt to be salty. After the butter-milk is drawn off, it is thoroughly washed in cold water, (in summer ice water is used,) constantly drawing it off till it becomes perfectly clear, and every particle of butter-milk is separated. It is then taken out and salted with one ounce to a pound of butter. Five or six teaspoonfuls of loaf sugar are added to every thirty pounds. It is packed very solid in fifty pound tubs, salt being left on the top of each tub to spread fine, and covered with cotton or linen cloth.

Afterwards a pure brine is put on, sufficient to cover the butter, and it is set away in a dry, cool cellar. The less the butter is handled the nicer it will be."

Mr. W. adds, (and the farmers of Maine would do well to take the hint,) "the pastures all over Caledonia county are covered with a luxuriant growth of white clover."

THAT SICK HORSE.

Our friend Lowell's horse, whose case he described in the twentieth number of the farmer, seems to excite considerable sympathy.

In conversation with Mr. Wm. R. Sanford, of this town, upon the subject, he recommended the use of carrots. He would feed them out prudently, and although they are slow in their action, yet he thought, from the experience he had in their use, they would ultimately effect a cure.

A Homoeopathic friend, recommended a drop of tincture of cantharides, on a little sugar, and put into the mare's mouth once or twice per day, to effect a cure. We have also received a communication from Mr. H. Bisbee, of Hartford, detailing an interesting experiment, with a horse of his, which we here insert.

Mr. Editor: Seeing an enquiry from Mr. Simeon B. Lowell, in your valuable paper, respecting a disease of his mare, I thought that I could prescribe a remedy, that would cure her before she went to grass. I had a mare that was taken lame in such a manner, that I thought her stifle joint was out; but no swelling, nor soreness could be found about her. Still, she could not get up without help, for six weeks. I was about to kill her, for I did not consider her worth one dollar. I accidentally found out that her disease was in the urinary organs. She would void a very little water at a time, which was very thick. I enquired of America Farmer, of Buckfield, if he ever had a horse that was lame, by the obstruction of the water? He answered in the affirmative. Now for the remedy: First, he directed to pour up a good dose of sweet milk and water. I then let her stand all night, and next morning took some spirits of turpentine, and rubbed smartly on her back, just before the hips, and covered her up with a blanket. In the course of half an hour, she made water three times with great force. In about six weeks she was well, and has remained so ever since. I would say, when any one gives rosin, powder it, and then take some in the hand, and rub it in the horse's mouth, and then they cannot taste it in their oats. H. BISBEE.

Hartford, March 23, 1853.

FLAX COTTON.

Flax cotton. Manufacturers in different parts of the world, are experimenting on flax cotton, in different ways.

We see by the April number of the Journal of the New York State Agricultural Society, that a very fine sample of this kind of cotton has been received at the Society's rooms, from J. Wilkinson, of Cohoes. It was manufactured by Col. Knowles, in nine hours, from the straw, and appeared superior, in strength of staple, to that of Prof. Clausen.

It seems that they are manufacturing it at Cohoes, to great advantage, and it can be afforded at about four cents per pound.

DRESSING FOR GRASS LANDS.

A good dressing for grass lands, one that shall be reasonably cheap, and durable, is a thing desirable in Maine. A dressing suitable to be put on, broadcast, which will keep up the fertility, and do away with the necessity of breaking up so often, as is sometimes necessary, in order to replenish its exhausted powers, would be exceedingly valuable. We use plaster, lime, ashes, &c., which do well for a time. Ashes, make a valuable and durable dressing, but it is difficult to procure enough of them. Plaster and lime do well in many soils for a time, but they bring on a chemical action in the soil, which hastens the solubility of the organic matters, and although they give us an increased crop for a time, and unless the active using up of this organic matter, which the increased crop brings about, is counteracted, by occasionally dressing it with organic matter, the soil becomes exhausted.

A few weeks ago, we asked the editor of the Working Farmer a question, respecting the use of his super-phosphate of lime, for this purpose. We copy the following from his April number, in answer to it.

A QUESTION FOR PROF. MAPES. Has your Improved Super-phosphate of Lime ever been carefully and thoroughly used by sowing it broadcast on old mowing grounds? If it has, what has been the result? A few facts in regard to its use for promoting the growth of grass are what we wish for. As the grass crop is the most valuable crop in Maine, if the Improved Super-phosphate will promote its growth by using as above suggested, we ought to have a few thousand tons of it among us.

Please answer in the next number of the Working Farmer.

The above is from the Maine Farmer, and it gives us pleasure to reply. One hundred pounds of the Improved Super-phosphate of Lime per acre, top-dressed on mowing lands in early spring before the spring rains, or any time during the spring, immediately before or during a shower, will increase the yield of hay more than one-third. On old pastures a similar application will cause marked improvement in appearance, in 20 days; and if its application is followed by a shower, the change of color and increased growth will be evident in less time.

This experiment was fairly tried in many places last year, by top-dressing parts of pasture lands, and we have seen almost every farmer who rode by, stop to inquire what caused the difference in the appearance of the grass. Cattle grazing in these pastures, will select the parts to which the Improved Super-phosphate of Lime has been applied, nor will they leave it until the surface is denuded of grass, to graze where the manure has not been applied.

Wherever this manure is used, the bone-dust among cattle disappears, and cows feed upon grasses and roots raised with it, cease to gnaw bones placed within their reach. The following letter from Thos. Shillingford, Esq., is among many of similar tenor we have received:—

CAMPDEN, Essex Co., N. J., July 15th, 1852.

PROF. MAPES, Dear Sir:—As per request accompanying your bill, I would state, that early in the spring I top-dressed a field of young grass with the Improved Super-phosphate of Lime, and, I have no doubt, that the crop is doubled by its use. The quantity used was 150 lbs. per acre.

On 8 acres of corn, I used about 350 lbs. per acre, applying it at the first hoeing, and it is admitted, by all who have seen the crop, to equal any field of corn they have ever seen.

I have also used your manure on carrots, and with effects equally astonishing. I have no hesitation in saying, that it is the cheapest and best manure I have ever used, and this is after having used bone-dust, stable manure, and some of the artificial manures, for sale in the market.

As to the grass lot, referred to above, it is a matter of great curiosity to all who have seen it, altogether surpassing any other grass in the neighborhood. Respectfully yours, THOMAS SHILLINGFORD.

The Improved Super-phosphate of Lime before use, should be mixed with charcoal dust, plaster of Paris, soil, or any other divisor slightly dampened, and remain for a day or more before being applied to the soil. [Working Farmer.]

FEARS THAT DO WELL UPON QUINCE STOCKS.

Mr. Editor:—In a recent edition of the half-price I made a few remarks, to send a list of fears which would succeed on the quince, I offer the following, with the remark that many not named here have given entire satisfaction so far as tried, but a longer publication is necessary before they should be recommended for general cultivation on the quince stock:—

Bourre d'Amal, Bourre Die, Glout Moreau, Vicar of Winkfield, Madeleine, White Doyenne, Easter Bourre, Gray Doyenne, Rousselet de Rheims, Doyenne Seulle, Urbaniste, Louise Bonne de Jersey, Duchesse d'Angoulême, Napoleon, Puisse Colmar, Doyenne Rous-souck, and Noreau Poiteau, three years of the highest promise, may be safely added.

Some, as Bourre d'Amal, grow vigorously from the first, while others, as Urbaniste, grow slowly; yet the latter eventually makes a fine tree, and an enduring and productive one.

Among those that do not succeed on the quince may be named Bourre Bue, Frederic de Wurtemberg, Marie Louise, Paradis d'Automne.

Others might be added. But few, comparatively, of the American pears are known to be adapted to this stock. The following have grown well for two or three years. Whether they will continue to do so, can be ascertained only by further trial. Andrews, Tyson, Oswego Bourre, Pratt, Bloodgood, Stevens' Genesee. Columbia. Some have failed to make any growth at all, as Dix, Cushing, and our Maine seedlings, Fulton, and McLaughlin.

There is reason to believe that the extensive experiments now in progress will throw much more light on the subject than we now possess. S. L. GOODALE.

P. S. Your compositor, or P. D., in the hints on transplanting, made me recommend "white wash" for an annual application to fruit trees. It should read soap suds, or perhaps better say common soft soap, of household manufacture, for old trees, and the same diluted with two or three parts water, for younger ones. White wash I utterly eschew. S. L. G. Saco, March 31, 1853.

THE CELEBRATED TROTTER MAC.

Mr. Editor:—I noticed in your paper of the 31st of March, a communication in relation to the trotting horse Mac, the fastest trotter now on record, in which you state that the trotter above, was raised in the town of Jay, Oxford County, and from a mare owned by a Mr. Coolidge. Now I beg leave to inform you and your readers, through your columns, that the Mac was raised in the town of Canton, County of Oxford, by a Mr. Records, sold to the subscriber when a sucking colt, kept by me till he was four years old; sold by me to Major Isaac Strickland for \$90; sold by him to one Hodges of Hallowell, and from thence he was sold into Massachusetts. Respectfully yours, SAMUEL HARLOW.

NOTE.—We are glad to be corrected in a matter of history, respecting so celebrated a personage, as the world renowned "Mac," the swiftest trotter in all Hallowell. We believe however that there is a little error in the above. Mr. Merrill of Hallowell, purchased the horse of Strickland, and brought him into Kennebec, and sold him to Mr. Hodges. Can Mr. Harlow furnish us with the true pedigree of "Mac." We have been enquired of by friends in New York, respecting his pedigree, but could never obtain any thing more than what we mentioned, in the note above alluded to. Ed.

INDIAN CORN ON SWARD LAND.

There is a diversity of opinion among the farmers in our vicinity, whether it is best to break up sward land, on which it is proposed to plant Indian corn, in the fall or spring.

Many contend that there is no particular difference in the decomposition of the soil, and of course, the corn crop is as much benefited by the fall ploughing as it would have been by the spring ploughing—while there is a gain in ploughing during the fall, because there is more leisure to do it than during the hurry of spring work, and that there is also a greater chance of killing, by frost, any of the larvae, eggs, &c., of insects that may be in the ground.

Who has instituted any carefully conducted experiments that will demonstrate the best mode of proceeding in this matter? The corn crop is a very important one to us, and we ought to know, by this time, what is the very best mode of raising it in Maine.

RAISING CHERRIES.

Mr. Editor:—Will you call the attention of farmers to the subject of raising cherries of the best varieties, and with the least expense. Last May, the man who was grafting apple trees for me, set some twenty seeds of the common large red, tart kind, in some mazzards, and the common wild cherry, sometimes called the fire cherry. These succeeded alike, making wood from two to three feet last season, with good branches, and are now in bud, without any other care or time than some fifteen minutes inserting the scions, and putting on the cement, such as is used in grafting. Almost every farmer has abundance of wild cherry trees on his farm. Probably he may have an abundance of this grateful fruit in his season, by simply inserting the scions of the best varieties. I intend to set grafts in the common black wild cherry, and the choke cherry this month. Of the growth there can be no doubt; of the bearing qualities, I have no knowledge, except one large and delicious cherry, grown on one of the scions, which was probably in bud when set.

Yours respectfully, ESSIE ORIS. Leeds, April, 1853.

SINGULAR DISEASE.—INFORMATION WANTED.

Mr. Editor:—We have had a singular disease among us. It broke out among us in red blotches, like the sting of a bee, attended with a burning, itching sensation; it is very catching, and has spread all about this section of the country. It has been one year last July, since the disease first broke out, and I have never heard of a case being cured yet. We applied to an eminent physician, who prescribed the usual remedy for the itch. It was used about four weeks, but without success.

After our physician could not cure it, he said it was no use to do anything more for it, it would get well itself. We did not feel quite satisfied, and tried unguentum, and used a wash of spirits of turpentine, but we can find nothing that will cure it. By taking two or three portions of physic, it will cause it to break out, sometimes in small white pimples, but often in blotches, and it spreads to a sore, and itches incessantly. We think if we had something to put on, to kill the disease when it is out, we might get rid of it. If the editor, or any subscriber know of a remedy, please inform us. Belfast, March 20, 1853. L. B. B.

AN OX WITH A WOODEN LEG.

A Pennsylvania farmer had the following misfortune happen to a fine working ox. The animal was grazing near where the farmer was at work making a fence. The ox stepped into a post-hole and broke his leg. As it was too lean to kill, the farmer consulted a physician who lived close by, and the result was that it was determined to cut off the broken leg. The ox refused food one day only after cutting off the leg. A wooden leg was substituted in proper time, and when the ox was finally killed it presented the finest beef seen in the Philadelphia market.

NOTICE.

To all within the limits of the West Lincoln Agricultural Society:

The Trustees of this society deem it advisable to give this early notice of the terms of some of their premiums to be offered, and what will be exacted in order to obtain them; viz:

For the best managed farm, to wit: Every thing pertaining to the cultivation of the soil, the management of Barns, Sheds, Stock, Manures, Crops, Hedges, Gardens, Orchards, Woods, Timber, Tools, &c., \$12.00.

For second best do., 8.00.

Best Indian Corn, not less than one acre, 3.00.

2d do., 2.00.

3d do., 1.00.

Best Wheat, not less than one acre, 4.00.

2d do., 3.00.

3d do., 2.00.

Best Rye, not less than one acre, 2.00.

2d do., 1.00.

3d do., 1.00.

Best Barley, not less than one acre, 2.00.

2d do., 1.00.

3d do., 1.00.

Best Oats, not less than one acre, 2.00.

2d do., 1.00.

3d do., 1.00.

Best Peas, not less than 1/2 acre, 1.50.

2d do., 1.00.

3d do., 1.00.

Best White Beans, not less than 1/2 acre, 1.50.

2d do., 1.00.

3d do., 1.00.

Best sample of Seed Corn, in trace, not less than 1 bushel, 1.00.

Best lot of Pumpkins, not less than 6 in No., 50.

2d do., 25.

3d do., 15.

Best lot of Squashes, not less than 5, 50.

2d do., 25.

3d do., 15.

Best Potatoes, not less than one acre, 3.00.

2d do., 2.00.

3d do., 1.00.

Best Carrots, not less than 1/2 acre, 1.00.

2d do., 1.00.

3d do., 1.00.

Best Beets, not less than 1/2 acre, 1.00.

2d do., 1.00.

3d do., 1.00.

Best Ruta Bagas, not less than 1-2 acre, 2.00.

2d do., 1.00.

3d do., 1.00.

Best Cabbages, not less than 1/2 acre, 2.00.

2d do., 1.00.

3d do., 1.00.

Best Onions, 1.00.

Best Parsnips, 1.00.

English Hay, best quality and quantity, not less than two acres, 3.00.

2d do., 2.00.

3d do., 1.00.

A competent and strong committee will be selected to decide upon the farms, and all the premises who will attempt to compete for the premiums (and it is hoped there will be many) will give notice to W. R. Wright, Esq., Secretary of the Society, at Lewiston, by mail or otherwise, as early as the first day of August next, so that the committee may have ample time for the examination.

JOHN M. FRYE, AUGUSTUS SPRAGUE, ALVAN MARSTON, JESSE DAVIS, ROBERT MARTIN, Trustees.

Lewiston, March 24, 1853.

FARM WORK FOR APRIL.

Any farmer who has not at this time fully prepared his land by manuring and plowing, and finished the majority of the work noted in our last month's number, may consider his season as lost, for no industry can now retrieve him unless the season be backward.

To such as have been more industrious, we would advise a careful reading of our work for last month, and after completing the work there noted, then to proceed with the following, if not anticipated from an early spring.

GENERAL FARM WORK. Early part of this month light sandy soils intended for general crops may be plowed, and indeed spring plowing for sandy soils is preferable to fall plowing; for although clayey lands are benefited by winter ridging, and the consequent pulverization from frequent freezings and thawings, still sandy soils would not be improved by similar treatment, as they would suffer by working, &c.

Although clayey soils, as well as all others, should be plowed as early in spring as practicable, still they should not be disturbed until wet. The action of the plow is to compact them in lumps, and thus render them unkind and non-absorbent.

Such fields as were plowed last month, but are not yet planted, should be run through by the cultivator immediately before planting, so as to have the surface of the ground thoroughly disintegrated just before sowing the seed; fresh surface insures rapid vegetation, and buries half-rotten weeds too low to interfere with the regular crops. Top-dress winter grain with Improved Super-phosphate of Lime mixed with damp charcoal, plaster of Paris or loam, as you now wish to press forward the plants, which could not be done with propriety in the fall, for fear of their being too forward, and thereby more liable to be winter killed.

Attend to water courses, drains, &c., as during the early freshets your mowing grounds may be rendered unproductive in growth, by uneven irrigation. If the season has been backward, you may still sow spring wheat, barley, oats, rye, field peas, &c. Beans, early potatoes, &c., may now be sown. Flax and hemp sow. Attend to pastures. Do not turn cattle too early into pasture grounds before the grass has had time to start fairly, and the ground has become sufficiently hard not to be disfigured by them. If you intend to fatten cattle in the fall and winter, you should now plant out carrots, parsnips, &c. You can raise eight hundred bushels or more of Belgian carrots to the acre, and they will do more service for your cattle and milk cows than four times the quantity of ground appropriated to either hay or corn crops. Cleanse cellars from putrescent substances: plant Indian corn; sow Lucerne; attend to the extermination of insects, &c.

[Working Farmer.]

Sowing Clover Seed. Sow over every acre of your land in wheat 12 pounds of clover seed. If the land which you have in wheat has been long in culture without having been limed or marled, you may naturally conclude that it needs one of these minerals, so make your arrangements to give it a dressing this fall, as clover does not thrive well in lands where lime is not present. If you use lime, give to your field 50 bushels per acre; if marl, 100 bushels. So says the Am. Farmer.

Brush drains are recommended as very valuable. The ditch to be nearly filled with branches and brush, butts pointing with a descent, the whole covered with inverted turf, and filled with earth. They are said to last many years.

INDIAN CORN.

There will never be a time, probably, when Indian corn will not be contemplated in the light of an important staple, by the American agriculturist. For a great variety of uses, it is certainly unsurpassed in the catalogue of grains, and in point of productiveness it compares favorably with most grains. Yet there are a great many who consider its cultivation as a matter involving much uncertainty and risk. They complain of the early frosts, which cut off the young plants; of the drought, which coarsens or averts the development of the grain, and of the later frosts, by which it is sometimes, though rarely, destroyed. All crops are liable to accidents, and corn can by no means claim an exemption. Yet that it is more liable to suffer and be destroyed by untoward events than other crops of similar value, is what no one, perhaps, who candidly contemplates the subject, will pretend to assert. If the early frost withers the tender blades, it never destroys the roots; a few warm days redress the field in its pristine verdure, and the real injury is, at most, but nominal. The drought or its effects, none can prevent, though the latter may be very essentially mitigated by adopting a judicious course of cultivation. Formerly the old Indian method of elevating a high conical hill around the roots was in vogue; but this has been found to be an error. The more of these hills there are on an acre, the greater, of course, will be the extent of surface exposed to the sun and winds, and the greater the exposure, the greater too must necessarily be the evaporation in a dry time. It was also deemed essential, in order to obviate the effect of drought, to allow the weeds to grow and cover the soil to keep out the sun, and thus preserve the soil perfectly moist and cool. Now experience has demonstrated, and the most indifferent observation will convince any one that the more vegetation there is on an acre the greater will be the drought upon its moisture. If, in a severe drought, you pull up a handful of weeds from under the sun, foliage of which completely shuts out the sun from the soil, you will find the roots bring up dew. For the first spring flower to such a one is a moist dirt; while the soil on which no weeds have grown, though in the immediate vicinity of the former, and exposed to the unmitigated heat of the sun, will be damp. In working corn lands, we should endeavor to keep the surface clean and light. Fine, well pulverized earth is a non-conductor, and consequently the often we pass through our fields with the harrow or cultivator, in dry weather, the better will it be for the crop. A brick, fresh from the mould, if placed in the yard and covered with a stratum of perfectly dry sand, will retain its moisture five times as long as one struck from the same clay and at the same time, if exposed openly by its side. No hills should be made around Indian corn.

Plant so as to pass both ways through the field, i. e., longitudinally and transversely, and do the working with the cultivator and horse. The few weeds that remain after the latter has passed, are easily eradicated with the hoe or hand, and all the rain that falls will be carried to the roots, instead of being thrown from them into the centre of the space between the rows. If you plant a kernel of Indian corn in rich soil, and suffer it to grow without hilling, it will take as strong a hold, and maintain itself as firmly against winds, as one that is hilled, and more so. But if, after it has run up to the height of three or four feet, you bring up three inches of dirt around the foot stalk, the lateral roots, which are its stays and braces, will stop growing, and a new emission of laterals will be induced from the section covered by the fresh soil. The old stalk will also be blanched by the privation of air, become crisp and brittle, like asparagus grown under leaves, and easily break. The same will take place as often as fresh dirt is drawn up, and the energies of the system exhausted by sending forth roots from which it in return can derive but comparatively slight support.

[New England Farmer.]

ARRIVAL TO TEA.

THE LEAVES OF THE COFFEE PLANT. The Singapore Free Press recommends the use of the coffee leaves as a substitute for the berry. The writer appears to be an English planter of the Dutch settlement of Padang, in Sumatra, where the coffee plant has been cultivated for several generations, and where it is now produced in large quantity, and of better quality than in any country of the Malay Islands, Java excepted. The coffee plant is an evergreen large shrub, which yields a profusion of leaves, and bears fruit for about twenty years. The leaf, and even the twigs, have in a minor degree, the same stimulating and exhilarating property as the berry, and its habitual use by the natives of the country, agricultural Malays of very simple habits, and little amenable to innovation, shows that they at least find the coffee leaf to make a wholesome and agreeable beverage. The introduction of this article into our consumption would, we cannot help thinking, be a benefit to the poor, and to our colonial planters. In order to render coffee leaves marketable for European consumption, the best mode of preparation will consist in subjecting them to the same kind of manipulation as tea undergoes, and for this purpose it would be expedient, at first, to employ, for instruction, Chinese skilled in the art, such men as Mr. Fortune lately brought from the northern provinces of China to Upper India. The leaves of coffee, neither fleshy nor succulent, are even more easily dried than those of tea; and being larger and more abundant, while the plant itself is more easily reared than tea, and embraces a much wider geographical range, it is certain they might be sold at a lower price than the poorest Bornea. It may be added that the leaves so prepared would not be amenable to the charge of adulteration so often urged against the berry.

HOW TO TOAST BREAD.

Chestnut brown will be far too deep a color for good toast; the nearer you can keep it to a straw-color, the more wholesome it will be. If you would have a slice of bread so toasted as to be pleasant to the palate and wholesome to the stomach, never let one particle of the surface be charred. To effect this is very obvious. It consists in keeping the bread at the proper distance from the fire, and exposing to a proper heat for a due length of time. By this means the whole of the water may be evaporated out of it, and it may be changed from dough, which has always a tendency to undergo acetous fermentation, whether in the stomach or out of it, to the pure farina wheat, which is in itself one of the most wholesome species of food, not only for the strong and healthy, but for the delicate and diseased. As it is turned to farina, it is disintegrated, the tough and gluey nature is gone, every part can be penetrated, it is equally warm all over, and not so hot as to turn the butter into oil, which even in the case of the best butter, is invariably turning a wholesome substance into a poison. The properly toasted slice of bread absorbs the butter, and the butter and farina are in a state of very minute division, the one serving to expose the other to the free action of the gastric fluid in the stomach; so that when a slice of toast is rightly prepared, there is not a lighter article in the whole vocabulary of cookery. [Household Almanac for 1853.]

RICE CURS.

Boil some rice in a very little milk, so as to be perfectly dry when done. Mash it fine, and while it is hot add a little butter, and sugar to suit the taste. Put the rice in cups; you should fill them as full as they will hold, by pressing the rice into them. When they are cold, turn them out on a dish, pour a custard round them, and eat them with cream.

THE COMING OF SPRING.

A bursting into greenness,
A waking as from sleep,
A twitter and a warble
That make the pulses leap;
A sense of renovation,
Of freshness and of health,
A casting off of sordid fear,
A carelessness of wealth.
A watching as in childhood,
For the flowers that one by one
Open their golden petals
To woo the first sun;
A gush, a dash, a gurgle,
A wish to shout and sing,
As filled with hope and gladness,
We hail the vernal Spring.

SPRING.

An early Spring morning like those of the past week, carries one away into old times and the country. The brooks are full, from the recent week's rain, and you can hear them a half a mile off, so still is the whole country. And yet there is a light breeze stirring. You feel it on your face, and as you pass the oak tree, you hear a rustling up among the branches, as if there were a return of life into its dried old arms. In the hickory grove a grey squirrel sits on the very topmost branch of the tallest tree, wiping his mouth with his paw, holding fast with only one at a time; while, farther down, his companion is making the grove ring with a shrill chirrup. You throw yourself down on the dry leaves, and enjoy the sun on your face, and wonder how any one can have the heart to shoot a squirrel.

Just then a robin, the first you have seen, flies into the tree above you, and a chirp and a whistle are answered by a dozen others now coming. As you turn over on the leaves, a little blue bird of the liveliest shows itself among them, and as you touch it, it opens its starry beauty.

So you gather it, the first Spring flower, and cherish it carefully, that when you reach home, you may give it to the sad-eyed girl that is watching the golden sunlight through the window. For the first Spring flower to such a one is a moist dirt; while the soil on which no weeds have grown, though in the immediate vicinity of the former, and exposed to the unmitigated heat of the sun, will be damp. In working corn lands, we should endeavor to keep the surface clean and light. Fine, well pulver



AUGUSTA:

THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 14, 1853.

TRIP TO WINDHAM.—No. 2.

The township of Windham, as do also the adjoining townships of Westbrook, Gorham, and part of Standish, contains much good soil. Much of it is a clayey loam, the clay predominating. Such soils, as we all know, are more retentive of the fertilizing matters which are added to them, but rather colder in their nature, that is, do not absorb heat quite so readily as the sandy loams, and probably radiate or throw off what heat they do absorb more readily than the soil where sand predominates. Of course dew forms upon them quicker, or, in other words, the air at evening, which is in contact with them, cools sooner, and deposits its moisture upon them sooner than upon sandy soils. These qualities make it more congenial to grasses and crops that require moisture and a lower degree of temperature than some other crops, and we accordingly find the grass crop a staple one in this section. Large amounts of hay are cut in this vicinity, and where proper attention has been paid to keeping up the fertility of the soil it has been, and still is, a very remunerating crop. The nearness to the large market of Portland, where much hay is not only consumed, but shipped to other places, is quite an advantage to the farmers in this section of the State. Although the farmers in this neighborhood sell much of their hay, they also keep a pretty good supply of cattle, horses, &c., although the rearing of them is not carried to the extent that it is in sections more remote from the hay market.

The apple flourishes well here, and there are some noble orchards, and yet we find among the older orchards here, that there was the same neglect among the proprietors, thirty or forty years ago, to engraft good varieties, as there was in other parts of the State. This is not so much to be wondered at, for, at that time, cider, and not apples, was the principal demand. Hence it was an object to get the trees to bearing as soon, and at as little expense, as possible. At the present time there is comparatively little demand for cider, but choice apples are always in demand. Accordingly we see most of the old orchards losing their heads, and a new set of branches putting out and bearing a very different sort of fruit from the sour, crabbed and knobby sorts formerly produced by them. Young orchards are also starting up, and nursed with care and attention. The proprietors will soon reap a fair reward for their labor.

We were happy to find the Messrs. Pope paying attention to the culture of pears and plums. They have recently commenced, but have made a very good beginning, not only in procuring good varieties of these fruits, and laying out for extending their operations in this way, but also in encouraging others in the like pursuits. In a few years they will probably begin to realize a happy return for their enterprise. Indeed, the farmers of Windham are exceedingly well situated for fruit raising, having, in addition to good soil, the advantage of speedy conveyance to market, for light articles, by means of stage and railroad, or for heavy articles by means of the Cumberland and Oxford Canal, which passes through their town.

From Windham we accompanied our phonetic friend, the Doctor, to Gorham, where we made a flying call upon another friend, David Elder, Esq., who received us very cordially. Mr. Elder has a noble farm, situated about a mile from the depot of the York and Cumberland Railroad, near Gorham Village. It is a very pleasant location. Mr. Elder is now the owner of the full blooded imported Arabian horse Innam. We paid our respects to his serene, foot-swinging height, and found him to be a compact, snub-nosed, elegantly formed, lively animal. His color is white, dotted over with reddish spots, or flea-bitten, as the jockies call it. He will weigh say 950 or 1000 lbs. when in flesh—is high spirited, but docile and playful as a kitten.

Mr. Elder is entitled to much credit for introducing this horse into Maine. Here is a chance for our farmers who are desirous of infusing a new strain of blood among their horses. The Arab has always been the foundation of the best breeds in the country. Take any breed you please that is noted for speed, or bottom, as it is called, and trace it back, and you will find it starting from some Arabian. This is the case with Morgans, Messengers, Bellsfouers, Eclipse, and the whole host of good horses throughout the United States, England, and other countries.

From Gorham, we took the "iron horse" to Portland, and thence to Kennebec. The York and Cumberland Railroad appears to be doing a thriving business, if the bustle and stir, and huge piles of freight, of different kinds, at the Gorham depot, are any indication of business. Success to all concerned.

IMPROVEMENT IN "POP CORN."

It is well known to corn growers that the "rice corn," so named on account of its very thin and transparent "hull" or skin, is the best kind to parch, or "pop," as it is called. Objection has been sometimes made to it, on account of its being too small.

George Vail, Esq., of Troy, N. Y., announces in a letter to the Secretary of the New York State Agricultural Society, (which accompanied some specimens of the corn,) that he has succeeded in improving it very much. He observed, in his letter, that "the stalks of the original corn, the first year planted, grew about four feet high, and yielded from one to three ears, on a stalk, and the stocks, each successive year, increased in height, and the past year they attained the height of about ten feet. The kernel on the ear, each successive year increased in size, and the stalks continued to yield from one to three ears."

Mr. Vail is inclined to the opinion that it may prove a valuable and productive variety for field planting.

Off the Track. The noon train, on the Kennebec and Portland Railroad, for Portland, on Thursday last, ran off the track when a few miles below Richmond, and in consequence of this accident the afternoon train, from Portland, did not reach here till about 12 o'clock at night. The train was got on the track again, without much damage.

SEEDS RECEIVED. We acknowledge with pleasure, the receipt of a couple of packages of seeds, from the Patent Office. They were put up very nicely, and came in good order, and some of them, especially of the grasses, we have been desirous of experimenting with. We shall endeavor to do during the coming summer, and will report the results.

IS THE MANUFACTURE OF WOOL A HEALTHY OCCUPATION?

It is generally conceded that, since the introduction of the manufacturing business extensively in New England, our young men and women, especially those who are engaged as operatives in the mills, are not so healthy as young people used to be in olden time. The confinement in close, warm rooms, which the operatives must necessarily undergo, and the lack of muscular exercise in the open air, cannot be conducive to robust health.

Notwithstanding this, some of our medical writers are endeavoring to make it out that wool manufacturing is an exception to this result, and that it is a very healthy business.

The Boston Medical Journal of the 30th ult. quotes from the London Lancet, as follows: "At this moment an investigation is being made into the state of health of those engaged in wool-spinning mills, with a view of ascertaining the effects of oil as a prevention of diseases, especially of a pulmonary character."

In those mills oil is extensively used, and the people engaged there, although enduring the greatest hardships and privations, enjoy the best health."

Here is a question of importance to the public. How is it in our woolen spinning mills? This business in New England employs a great number of persons of both sexes. They probably do not work so hard, and fare a great deal better than many of the English operatives in the same business. If conducive to health, the statistics of the mills would probably show it, in some degree, at least.

If it be the case that the business actually is more healthy than other kinds of manufacturing, can it be wholly owing to the abundance of oil used? Probably not. Wool itself is an animal production, as well as oil, and if the oil acts as a preventive of, or remedy for, diseases, it must be on account of the odor, or volatile parts of it, which are either taken into the lungs by breathing, or are absorbed through the pores or absorbents of the skin. The wool also sends forth an effluvia, or odor, and, of course, more or less of volatile matter, which is also taken into the lungs, or absorbed, as are the volatile parts of oil. However, we will not undertake to give an explanation before the fact of its curative, or healthy properties is established.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

KNICKERBOCKER MAGAZINE. Old Knick for April is on hand bright and early, and the Editor's Table as richly freighted as ever. A pleasant companion is the Knickerbocker Magazine, and one whose monthly visits are always looked forward to with impatience, and hailed with delight by all lovers of the rich and rare in literature.

HOUSEHOLD WORDS. Dickens' Household Words enters upon its seventh volume with a handsome dress, and makes a fine appearance. This is a reprint of the London edition, which is edited by Charles Dickens, whose writings are familiar to most of our readers. It is a very interesting work, and we hope its publishers, on this side of the big fish pond, will reap a rich pecuniary reward. Sent by mail, weekly, for \$2.50 per annum.

ENLARGED. The Northern Light, published in Lowell, has recently changed proprietors, and enlarged its boundaries, we presume on the principle that its light should not be hid under a bushel. The late proprietor, in his valedictory, offers his "adieu" to the public. One of our Down East brethren surmises he is a dancing master. Guess not, brother. The new publishers are Messrs. May & Marble. Don't take courage from the names of this firm, ye delinquent subscribers, for the gentility of the one will surely be counteracted by the hardness of the other, and you will find yourselves no gainers by the change.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. This valuable work has just commenced a new volume and new series, with many improvements. The pages are a little smaller, but there are more of them, so that there is more matter than before. There is no work published in this country that gives its readers so much and so valuable information, and pleasant reading, as this same Living Age. All the best foreign works are carefully selected from, and their best articles are thus made accessible to the general reader, who would have no means of seeing them elsewhere. Littell & Co. announce that they shall commence a new paper, to be called the Franklin, about the first of May, which will be a first class paper in every sense of the word. We shall have further to say of this hereafter.

POCKET CARPET BAG. Mrs. Partington makes her appearance in a very neat and beautiful little monthly, bearing this title, and which takes the place of the Weekly Carpet Bag. It is a very valuable little Magazine, and can be found at all the news depots. Terms, \$1.50 per annum. We give Mrs. Partington our best wishes for her success.

THE STEAMERS HAVE STARTED.

The Kennebec river is again made lively with the splash and the snort and the scream of the steamers which are plying up and down its waters.

The staunch and favorite steamer Ocean, has commenced her trips to Boston. She is commanded, as heretofore, by Capt. Sanford, well known as a faithful, gentlemanly, and experienced Captain, and our old friend Wall still continues in the clerk's office.

The boat has been thoroughly overhauled and repaired, and put into first rate order, and an additional number of state rooms put in, which renders her accommodations very superior. In addition to this, the "Teaser" is up and dressed, and "walks the water" every day, from Augusta to Bath and from Bath to Augusta, under the command and direction of Captain Beck, whose careful attention to his passengers makes every one feel safe and comfortable while in his charge.

We shall also soon have lots of the Waterville steamers plying up and down the river, all busy and lively, steaming and screaming and dashing along like a flock of young Behemoths.

EXTRA SESSION OF THE SENATE, &c. The Senate during the past week, have been mostly occupied in confirming nominations, and executive session. Among the nominations are the following Postmasters, in Maine: Isaac C. Hynes, Bangor; Joseph C. Snow, Bath; Joseph H. Noyes, Belfast; Thomas Newman, Hallowell. Collectors: Edmund Wilson, Waldo; John Cousins, Kennebec. The nominations for this State seem not all made yet, notwithstanding the assertion of the Boston Journal published in our last.

The Senate voted to adjourn on Monday. Since writing the above, we learn that the Senate adjourned on Monday, but were reconvened by the President. Mr. Buchanan was nominated Minister to England, and confirmed. It was rumored that the Cabinet was to be reorganized, but the rumor is denied.

CONNECTICUT SILVER MINES.

Mr. Enos.—In this age of golden excitement, when men think to gather wealth from the earth's generous bosom, in a more speedy manner, than by the farmer's honest toil, it may not be altogether unacceptable to your readers, to present a short sketch of the silver mines recently opened in this quiet town. The formation of the bluffs, and rocky walls of the river in this region, has for a long time attracted the attention of scientific men, who have suspected the existence of minerals, though until lately no company has ventured to make those large expenditures, which would be necessary to obtain the buried treasure. Indeed there are exhibited in this locality, many of the phenomena, which distinguish the rich mineral district. In many places the magnetic needle becomes still and powerless, and in others the little smoke has ascended, since the earliest remembrance. A few rods below the city an opening had been made into the solid bank, but had been abandoned, probably on account of ill success. Rumor had reported, that these mines had indeed been worked during the revolution, for the lead there was found; which of course had supplied the muskets of our gallant defenders. But as no extensive mining operations were apparent, this account was generally regarded as fabulous, though it has imparted an interest to the locality.

About the beginning of 1852, a man by the name of Dr. Frankfort, a German miner, appeared in the place, who immediately commenced a geological survey, of the mineral region. While engaged in this, he suddenly came upon a perpendicular shaft, near 120 feet in depth, which had been so nicely covered by woodwork and earth, that there had been no suspicion of its existence. The chestnut timber, and the long ladder descending the shaft, were as sound as if placed there yesterday, while the miner's tools, found at the bottom of the shaft, had rusted away in the damp of years.

This mine, which many years since, had evidently been worked for the silver, had extended about 1500 feet from the bottom of the shaft, and upon examination gave evidence of richly repaying the labor of working. The rock in which the ore occurs is said, by those acquainted with the mines of Europe, to closely resemble the mineral formation of the region of Cornwall and Derbyshire, England; a fine Quartz, with here and there strata of calcareous spar, presenting some of the most beautiful forms of crystallization. It contains the galena rich with silver, with an occasional vein of the native ore; in addition to which are found, iron, copper, and arsenical pyrites, and the crystallized carbonate and sulphate of lead. From this mine, the ore was probably shipped in bulk, and the whole operation was conducted with such admirable secrecy, that the oldest inhabitants of the city had no suspicion of its existence.

There is something so singular, with regard to the circumstances of its discovery, and mysterious in the profound silence of the parties, that popular rumor, ever active upon such occasions, has connected them with the original workers of this secret mine. From a close investigation of Governor Winthrop's geological surveys, it has been ascertained, that the mines were carried on under his directions, and that the aforesaid Dr. Frankfort may be possessed of documents, through whose means he was enabled to determine so accurately their position. The Cornish men, now engaged in the mines, declare that the work was performed by their countrymen, and in the best manner. In those old colony times, about one fifth of the proceeds of the mines was claimed for the royal treasury, and this would be a sufficient inducement for the most sacred secrecy in their operations.

After the experience of a year, the mines afford increased evidence of great mineral wealth, and a company of enterprising miners, have purchased them at the cost of about \$100,000, and no expense is to be spared to render it one of the most valuable and productive mines in the country. Suitable buildings have been erected and machinery put in operation, for separating the ore from the rock, with which it is found, and for carrying on the whole business of the mines. The workmen are penetrating farther into the bowels of the mountain, with the pick and drill, bringing forth to the light, the long concealed treasures. The silver is found in veins, similar to that which occurs in the renowned mines of Mexico, and a long and rich treasure house of Potosi, and as these mines have been worked over 1500 feet from the surface, with no decrease in their yield, with the assistance of steam power, we may reasonably consider the Middletown silver mines inexhaustible.

J. A. NICKERSON.

Middletown, Connecticut, April 6, 1853.

SOMERSET AND KENNEBEC RAILROAD. We understand that the contract for grading this road, and putting up the bridges, has been concluded. The contractors, two gentlemen from Massachusetts, agree to do it for \$300,000, \$100,000 of which they take in stock. They agree to have the road ready for the rails, from Augusta to Waterville, by November next, and to Skowhegan by a year from that time. The stock is now being taken up, and the road will be pushed ahead as fast as possible.

VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT. The annual meeting of the voters in this district, will be held at the High School, on Wednesday next, 20th inst., at 2 o'clock P. M. The object of directors, and the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting.

N. Y. CRYSTAL PALACE. The N. Y. Evening Post says that this gigantic and magnificent work of iron and glass is rapidly progressing towards completion. Many difficulties have been encountered, particularly in regard to the lofty dome, of 100 feet diameter, the only one of its kind, in our country, and beside which, it is said, there are only two in the world. But these difficulties, though at first they retarded the work somewhat beyond the first of May—the time originally set for the opening of the exhibition—are now surmounted; and according to the Post's account, the first, second and third stories are erected, and the arches span the four naves. The whole of the iron frame-work of the roof is on the ground, and the greater part of it in place on the building. The four "leantos," which give octagonal shape to the building, are roofed in, and two of them have their glass windows in. The great trusses and ribs of the dome are coming on the ground, and that is the only considerable part of the construction yet to be completed. The whole of the iron is ready and only remains to be raised and put together, which, with the help of four great derricks now aloft, will be no long job.

ANOTHER VICTIM—RUM'S DOINGS. CORNER Thomas P. Tufts was called upon Saturday to hold an inquest on the body of a female named Elizabeth E. Andrews, who was found dead in a room occupied by a man by the name of Chute, and situated on a street in the vicinity of King's corner, Hallowell. We are told by the coroner that Chute himself was in a beastly state of intoxication on Friday night, and that his wife was obliged to go or send to the neighbors for help to restrain him from committing outrages upon his family. The verdict of the inquest which was closed on Monday, is as follows: "That the deceased came to her death in consequence of the too free use of intoxicating liquor, and the prostrating effects of antimony, increased by morphia, and want of proper care."

[See Union—6th.]

GATHERED NEW FRAGMENTS.

Brutal play. Two boys, one 15 and the other 17 years of age, so cruelly treated another lad, about 11 years of age, in Dresden, New Jersey, that he died in a few days afterwards. The cruel youths not only beat their companion brutally, but they rubbed his face with sand so roughly, that the particle penetrated his eyes and ears, caused intense suffering. The object is supposed to have been merely to gratify their longing for a little rude sport. They were arrested and committed to jail to await a trial. The deceased was a son of Mr. Kelsey, keeper of the hotel at Dresden.

Failure of Gold mines. The Cherokee Gold mines are likely to prove delusions. Numbers of persons have been digging, and others still continue to dig, but no specimens of gold are yet to be seen.

Washington Movement. The Washington Republic announces that mechanical operations on the monument have been resumed. The block of stone from the Republic of Switzerland has arrived in the city.

Scarcity of Seamen. We are informed, says the Boston Journal, that there has not been for a long time such a scarcity of seamen as now exists at this port. Quite a number of vessels are detained in port for want of men. The highest wages are being paid, but they fail to produce the men. From \$22 to \$25 advance is being paid to New Orleans; the same advance and \$20 per month to Liverpool; \$20 per month to the West Indies, and other ports in the same proportion.

Singular cause of fatality. A German woman residing near Little Chute, Wisconsin, recently became insane from excess of joy, at unexpectedly receiving food for herself and family, while in a starving and dying condition.

A powerful fleet. The Boston Post says:—Our harbor presents quite a warlike appearance just now. There are five government ships lying at the wharf, and off the stream, viz., the Ohio, (receiving) ship-of-the-line; the Vermont, ship of battle ship, detached from the Japan expedition; the sloop of war Decatur, ordered on the above named expedition; and the sloop of war Growlman and Dale, just arrived from the African squadron.

Enlarging operations. The Amoskeag Company, Manchester, N. H., will commence the erection of a new mill the present season. It will be large enough to contain and run 25,000 spindles, and to give employment to 1200 or 1500 persons. This makes the fifth mill of this company. Nos. 1 and 2 were built in 1841; No. 3 in 1844, No. 4 in 1850. The four mills now in operation roll off forty miles of cloth a day, mostly flannels, drillings, sheetings, and tickings. Pretty fair for Manchester.

Removal of a Convent. The Abbey of Einsiedeln, an old and celebrated Catholic establishment in Switzerland, which has suffered much from the persecution of the cantonal government in which it was located, is to be removed to the United States. The plan was conceived by the Abbot, and has been approved by Pope Pius. Already two of the monks have departed for Indiana, to prepare the way for the establishment there of a convent of women. They will soon be followed by others from the Abbey.

Small Notes. A movement was recently made in the Virginia Legislature to suppress notes of a less denomination than \$5, by providing in the state tax bill that all persons who take out licenses shall swear or affirm that they will not receive or pass any note of a less denomination than \$5. The proposition obtained 23 votes, and 71 were thrown against it.

Generous! An individual in Northampton, Mass., who lost a purse containing \$200, gave a poor colored boy, who returned it to him, the liberal sum of five cents!

The California Mint. A letter from Washington states that the proposals for contracts for the erection of the branch mint of the United States at San Francisco, were opened on Saturday. J. S. Parker was the successful competitor, the amount of his bid being \$240,000. Womersley, Hall & Co. of Albany were the next lowest bidders, their bid being only \$828 above that of Parker.

A frenzied thief. O. T. Housen, of Grand Traverse, Michigan, has murdered one of his sister's children. He had tortured the child for several days previous with a hot iron. He had kept his wife locked up for some time, and fed his own children on raw corn on the ear, one ear per day being the allowance of each. He went into the woods one morning forgetting to lock his family up as usual, when they escaped and gave the alarm.

Trees in Oregon. If we are to believe the published reports in relation to the forests of Oregon, they have trees of most gigantic size in that new territory. One of them was lately measured and was found to be ten feet in diameter, and one hundred and nineteen feet to the first limb, its full height two hundred and forty-six feet. In another large forest of cedar, spruce and fir trees, among many others of about the same size, one was selected which measured thirty-nine feet in diameter. It is stated that a gentleman, residing in Astoria, purchased 100-000 shingles, all made from one cedar tree, for which he paid \$1500 in gold.

Body Found. The Bangor Mercury of the 5th inst., says, Coroner Hayford held an inquest last evening on the body of an unknown man, found in the ice at Hathorn's steam mill, in Hampden. He had the appearance of having been in the water for some time—about 5 feet 10 inches in height, apparently a young man—had on a black frock or sack, black cassimere pants, vest and flannel shirt. The body was buried in Hampden.

Bible Society Anniversary. The Prussian Bible Society, with its affiliated societies, held in the last forty years distributed 2,000,000 Bibles, between the 13th of March to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the British Bible Society, the great mother of all existing Bible Societies.

Flesh-colored Coat Plaster. The Boston Courier says, a couple of ladies, of dusky hue, called at an apothecary shop in Bowdoin square, last week, to buy some "flesh-colored coat plaster." The attendant procured a roll of white plaster, and was about to cut off a piece worth, when one of the maidens interrupted him by asking, "Do you call that flesh-colored, sir?" The polite apothecary, being previously abstracted in pill merriment, looked up, took the hint, and instantly furnished a flesh-colored plaster.

Mr. Estes, the Wounded Freeman. One year ago, today, says the Boston Daily Advertiser of March 31, Mr. Estes was so seriously injured at the burning of the Tremont Temple, that he was thought he could not live but a short time, and newspapers have since repeatedly pronounced him as fast declining, greatly to his annoyance and that of his friends. He is at the present time quite smart, and has nearly recovered from the effects of his recent attack of fever, and he entertains the most sanguine hopes of his entire recovery.

Couldn't get married. There is an interesting couple in Cincinnati who have been engaged to be married for the last five years, but no time has occurred within that period when they were both out of prison at the same time.

Sale of Webster's Furniture. At the sale of the household furniture of the late Daniel Webster, which took place at Washington on the 18th inst., so great was the desire of persons to possess memorials of him, that an ordinary cane chair, with castor, (generally occupied by Mr. Webster) was sold for fifty dollars, and a time-piece, that could have been put into his overcoat pocket, for thirty-nine dollars and fifty cents.

A Patent Rat Trap. The Portland Argus says, Mr. Bance, who keeps an oyster shop on Middle street, in this city, was amused a few mornings since, on opening his shop, to find a good-sized rat, on the floor, held fast by a clam, that had "shut sesame" on his paw, and held him with a relentless grasp till the slayer came.

CRIME AGAINST GOVERNMENT AGENTS. A report from Lieutenant Edward F. Beal, Superintendent of Affairs in California, has just been made to the Secretary of the Interior, which presents such a picture of villainy, cowardice and cruelty towards the Indians on the Pacific, as makes us almost ashamed of our kind. Customarily the agents of the government, in the report, and we might imagine we were reading a narrative of the barbarities practised in the first years of the sixteenth century, three hundred and fifty years ago, upon the poor aborigines of Cuba, which, so many of the indignation and pity of the benevolent Las Casas. The report, with a copy of which we have been favored, shows that these poor wretches have been defrauded and robbed in the most open and shameless manner by the agents of our government, in pursuance of a treaty stipulation, had sent them to feed and protect them. The cool confession of one of the participants in those iniquities is given in the report. But cheating is a trifle to the rest. Indians have been carried off from their homes by armed parties, and sold into slavery; worked until exhausted, and then turned off to starve. Whole families, even tribes, have been exterminated by the miners on the most groundless suspicion of discontent—and this not in fair or open light, but by treacherous surprises and cowardly ambushes. The life of an Indian is of less account than a dog. They shoot him down in mere wantonness, to keep their hand in practice. And the officers of the government, bound to protect these defenceless natives by every consideration of duty and humanity, can find no law which authorizes them to punish, but content themselves with shaking their heads and saying mildly, that such conduct is wrong.

[New York Eve. Post.]

THE COINAGE IN ENGLAND AND IN THE UNITED STATES. An article in the London Economist gives a detailed statement of the coinage of gold and silver coin in Great Britain for the past five years, and in comparing it with the coinage of the United States mint and its branches, we are surprised to find that in that time (five years) our country far exceeds that of Great Britain. The amount coined in England since 1848 is as follows:

	Gold Coin.	Silver Coin.
1848.	£2,451,999	£5,342
1849.	2,177,555	119,592
1850.	1,491,259	126,006
1851.	4,409,411	87,858
1852.	8,432,270	189,690

This gives a total of £19,594,437 of gold, and £550,594 of silver, which, added to £12,208, the amount of copper coined, makes a total of £19,838,375. The coinage of gold in 1852, it will be seen, is nearly equal to that of the four previous years.

By reducing the above amounts from pounds to dollars, at the rate of \$4.84 to the pound sterling, and comparing it with the coinage in the United States, we have the following result for the last five years:

	Great Britain.	United States.	Excess U. S.
Gold.	\$93,240,919	\$164,226,693	\$70,985,774
Silver.	2,718,115	7,794,907	5,076,792
Copper.	59,571	300,574	241,003

\$96,017,735 \$172,322,474 \$76,304,739

By the above it appears that the excess of the coinage in the country for the five years was \$76,304,739. In the year 1852, the coinage of gold in Great Britain was \$42,312,587, in the United States \$53,747,187. Excess in favor of the United States, \$11,434,600.

[Baltimore Patriot.]

STUCK BY LIGHTNING. During the thunder-storm, on Monday evening last, a discharge of lightning burst over the house of Alfred Rodman, Esq., in Durham, which considerably startled its inmates. The building, which was not injured, but the electric fluid left marks in its passage over the various conductors, some of which were melted, and by conveyed by them to the earth, and to the well. Mr. Thomas Motley, Jr., who formerly owned the house, was in one of the rooms, in the act of taking up a cigar, when the head appeared in a body to him as large as a hog-head at the window before him. There are a number of trees around the house, some of which were struck by the lightning, and the house was broken, and pieces thrown at a distance. The house was thrown upon the piazza. The house was provided with William A. Orvett's lightning conductors, which saved the building from destruction, and probably the lives of its inmates. [Traveller.]

THE NEW COIN. The United States Mint, at Philadelphia, is now engaged night and day in striking off the new silver coinage. The denominations are three, five, ten and twenty-five cents. The new quarter of a dollar weighs precisely four pennyweights, and is in one half less than the former piece. As compared with the current Spanish quarters the new coin is decidedly heavier and somewhat finer. None of the new dimes or half dimes have yet been struck. The money for the gold has been ordered to make bars of the value of \$200, \$1000, and \$4000 each. An engraved ticket (printed on bank-note paper) will be affixed to each bar, to certify its weight, fineness, and its value in dollars and cents. These bars will be introduced by the Mint for exchange at any future period, to be subject to a charge of one-half of one per cent. as prescribed by the new law. The present charges for making these bars (including the cost of labor, materials, and unallowable wastage) will be six cents per hundred dollars, or about one-sixteenth of one per cent. This charge will be collected from the depositor, and not deducted from the bar.

POST OFFICE OPERATIONS. The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, writing on the 4th inst., says:—"On the 1st inst. the letting of mail contracts which ever took place at the General Post Office Department was commenced to-day. It embraces the States of New England, and New York; and every other State and Territory in the Union."

Large as is this letting, it is announced that the decisions will be made by the 25th inst., which indicates a degree of industry and energy highly creditable to the new administration. This important branch of the Government.

On the fourth day of the new quarter there were received at the General Post Office for settlement about 2500 New England accounts, of pupils enrolled and the average accounts or teachers are in fault when less than five eighths of the scholars of all the schools in the State are present. It is a significant fact that the enrolled number of boys exceeds that of the girls by more than 40,000. There are 9,916 schools with 12,404 teachers in the State, and latter of whom \$771,145 are paid as wages. 171 school houses have been built during the year, at a cost of \$64,807.

FARMERS MASS MEETING.

On the 9th day of April there was held at the Kennebec Union Meeting House within the limits of Bangor, a mass meeting of farmers for the purpose of listening to an address by E. F. Cane, Esq., the Commissioner of Agriculture for Penobscot County, and for consulting together for the general good of the profession. The meeting was organized by the choice of Dr. Lowell Marston President, and E. F. Gibbs Secretary.

E. F. Cane, Esq., delivered a very interesting and suggestive address on the doings of the Board of Agriculture.

The following resolutions were introduced and discussed and action taken upon them:

1. Resolved, That the Society of the Penobscot County Agricultural Society to hold their annual fair for the future at Bangor meets our approval; and will promote, we believe, the best interests of the society. Bangor is a larger market for agricultural products than any other in the county; and we therefore hope new life and greater usefulness will be imparted to the society by this change of place to hold its exhibitions.

The resolution was adopted.

2. Resolved, That improvement of the mind, and the skillful management of the soil should be the great objects of the farmer; and that the introduction of improved breeds of stock and new kinds of seed though of great value, should be viewed only as of secondary importance; (A) and we sincerely regret that public opinion, the Board of Agriculture, and the Legislature of this State seem disposed to reverse such an order of things.

The resolution was adopted to the word "importance" at letter (A).

3. Resolved, That the success of agricultural improvement depends on a due regard of first principles, and the only sure guaranty to ultimate success is the instruction of the rising generation; to effect this object, we recommend to those in charge of the primary schools, the elements of the science of agriculture, or laws of nature as developed by Geology, Chemistry, Botany and Physiology, as suitable to be introduced into our common schools.

This resolution was adopted.

4. Resolved, That we recommend a mass meeting to be held at Bangor on the 4th of July next, to consider what should be done to elevate the farming, and producing interest of this County.—Adopted.

5. Resolved, That whenever the science of Agriculture shall be as thoroughly understood, and its practice as skillfully carried out by the Farmer, as is Commerce by the intelligent Merchant, or Banking by the able financier—then, and not till then, will the art of raising money be as lucrative as well as the learned professions of the age.—Adopted.

6. Resolved, That the benefits resulting from the establishment of a model farm, would be, in a great measure, lost, if the land were not limited in their extent; and that the expenditure of the amount proposed to be invested in such an institution, in the employment of scientific and really practical lecturers in every rural district, would have a greater tendency to unfold the resources of the State, awaken a keener interest in agriculture and its kindred pursuits, and impart more useful information to the agricultural community, than could be effected by the plan proposed.—Adopted.

This resolution was referred to the Mass Meeting to be held on the 4th of July next. The meeting was well attended, the proceedings were harmonious, the discussions highly interesting and the effect beneficial.

Voted, That the thanks of this meeting be presented to E. F. Cane Esq., for his highly interesting and able address.

Voted, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Maine Farmer, and all the papers in the city of Bangor.

LOWELL MARSTON, President.
E. H. GIBBS, Secretary.
Bangor, April 3, 1853.

THE MANNER IN WHICH WE TRANSMIT GOLD. The free and easy manner in which our people transmit immense sums of gold, is a matter of much surprise to foreigners, and since one of the Express Companies was requested to take from this city to New York, one million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars in newly minted gold, weighing over forty-six hundred pounds. Three wagons loaded up to the door of the mint, having no guards or watchmen, except a driver for each. The gold, which was in bags, was thrust into the wagons like so many bags of salt, and driven to the office of the Company, where it was put in a large chest, and sent to the boat. Last of the weight of the mass should break the gang plank, the chest was unlocked, and the bags handed out in the midst of a promiscuous multitude, without even the appearance of a guard. On arriving at New York, the yellow dirt was carted to its owners in the same unpretending manner, none of the persons concerned in its transmission, seeming to feel any unusual responsibility or importance from the fact of having two tons of gold

The Muse.

SPRING.

BY LUCY M. M. DAVIDSON.

I have seen the Spring, I have heard her song,
As she passed in her lightness and freshness along,
The blue was rolled deeper, the moss-crust looked
bristly,
As she breathed o'er the regions of darkness and night!
I have seen the rose on the youthful cheek,
And the dew of delight 'neath the bright lash break,
The bounding footstep soars pressing the earth,
And the lip which speaks of a soul of mirth!
I have seen the Winter with her cold care,
With a scowl and eye, and snow-white hair;
And what'er his footstep has touched was cold
As the lifeless stone which the sculptors mould.
I have seen the farrago upon the brow
Which once was beaming with rapture's glow;
I have seen the ripples which once were bright,
All scattered and wasted, and lifelessly white!
I have seen the Spring in its beauty pass
Like a fairy from a wizard's glass,
With her throbbing heart, and her eye of fire,
With her sparkling robe, and her tunic of desire,
I have mourned to behold the fresh rose decay
And pass from the bright cheek of beauty away,
I have watch'd the cold Winter of age coming on,
But "there burst no fresh Spring on the Winter of man!"

I mark'd where the violet was sinking to rest—
The wind passed along o'er its tremulous breast;
It faded, it withered—no snow-crust passed by,
And shrouded the flower from the storm of the sky.
The Winter rolled on, and Spring bled along,
With light and with beauty, with garland and song;
The snow-crust gleamed faintly, then melted away,
And the violet bloomed freshly and bare to the day.
I knelt by the sepulchre dreary and lone,
Lay the beautiful form in its temple of stone,
The young leaves gleamed brightly around the cold spot;
I looked for the spirit—yet still it came not.

May the flower of the valley burst forth to the light,
And man in his beauty be buried in night!
A voice on the waters, a voice in the sky,
A voice from the heart, a voice from the eye,
Proclaim that he may not that Spring in her light,
Shall awaken the spirit from darkness and night!

The Story-Teller.

From Graham's Magazine.

THE RASH MARRIAGE.

BY MRS. JULIA C. R. DORR.

[CONCLUDED FROM LAST WEEK.]

CHAPTER X.

Alone! Alone!
And sad in youth, but chastened, I depart.

Once more upon the waters, yet once more!
CHILDRE HANDED.

Before the day had fallen on little Katy's coffin, Adelaide had determined to leave her home. She really believed that her husband would not in the least regret her absence; and she felt that she could longer endure the misery of dwelling beneath the same roof with him, and yet being to all intents and purposes a stranger. She felt that the cold glance which she was forced to meet each day was freezing her very heart's blood; that the calm, quiet, formal tone in which he addressed her, was more intolerable than the bitterest reproaches—and she could not bear it.

While she was hesitating whether she should speak to him of her intention, she received a letter from an acquaintance in the western part of the State. The writer said that Mrs. Ellsworth—a friend of hers—was about to join her husband in England, and wished to take with her a lady who would be both a companion for herself and act as governess for her children, and inquired whether Mr. Fletcher could inform them where such a person could be found. She stated, also, that her friend would wish to sail in something less than three months, and concluded with a few words respecting salary, etc., and an apology for the liberty she was taking.

Adelaide's plan was at once formed—she would accept the situation thus thrown in her way herself, bearing a different name, of course; and in a foreign land, and among strangers, she might, perhaps, forget a part of her grief. Her course failed her as the time drew near; and it is more than probable that if Mr. Fletcher had been at home when the hour for her departure arrived, she might have betrayed her secret. But her opportune absence seemed to her almost providential; and as Mrs. Allen she joined the party of Mrs. Ellsworth, at L—, on the day appointed.

They proceeded at once to Boston, and during the ensuing week sailed for England. Long before they reached the shores of the "fast anchored isle," Mrs. Ellsworth had learned of fate almost a sister's love for the gentle, pensive stranger by her side; and her children—some of them a little blue-eyed fairy, nearly as old as Adelaide's lost treasure—clung to "sweet Mrs. Allen," as they called her, as if she had been the friend of years rather than of weeks. They all seemed to take it for granted that she was a widow—her mourning-dress strengthened the impression; and she continued so to evade their questions as not to deceive them.

Indeed, Mrs. Ellsworth soon discovered by Adelaide's quivering lip, and the increasing paleness of her cheeks, whenever any allusion was made to her former life, that her history, whatever it might be, was a painful one; and with true kindness she ceased to make any inquiries in reference to it.

At the close of a long, bright summer day, rather more than two years after Adelaide became a member of Mrs. Ellsworth's family, she sat with that lady and her children in the parlor of the beautiful little cottage that Mr. Ellsworth had chosen for their residence while in England.

It was a quiet, home-like room—not too elegant for comfort, nor too stylish for ease and freedom. Frank, if he pleased, might bring his tiny boat, and sit on the carpet while he mended the rudder—no fear of frowns if he did make a few chips; and any might convert the ottoman into a couch for her wax baby, without incurring any danger of a lecture.

Mrs. Ellsworth was reading, and Gertrude, the eldest daughter—a sweet girl of about fifteen—was seated at the piano, warbling some after song as carelessly, and seemingly, with as little effort as a bird.

Adelaide sat by the window—her work had fallen upon her lap—her eyes were fixed upon the golden clouds of sunset, but her thoughts were far away—with her husband. She wondered if he ever thought of her—if the past haunted him as it did her; then, as the glow faded and the clouds became gray and sombre, she pictured to herself a pall and a coffin; and then not, he knew not how well, how truly she had loved him. Death was nothing when compared with their estrangement—and she found almost pleasure in the thought.

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"You must think my agitation very unreasonable, Mrs. Ellsworth."

"Not by any means, my dear Mrs. Allen. I have only a very slight knowledge of your history, it is true, but I am inclined to think it would be much more singular if you were not agitated. I do not wish to learn anything that you think proper to conceal. But if I can assist or comfort you in any manner, I beg that you will confide in me."

"I will confide in you, Mrs. Ellsworth—I must do so. Oh, you do not know how often, since I have been under your roof, I have longed to tell you the whole of my sad story, and to receive from you the counsel and sympathy that I knew you would not refuse me—but I could not trust myself, and now I presume it is not necessary for me to tell you that I am the runaway wife of Willis Fletcher."

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With an exclamation of surprise she sprang forward. "You are very ill, Mrs. Allen—here, lean on me. Gertrude, bring a glass of water and my valise—quick!"

Adelaide was sitting bolt upright in her chair, with her hands clasped so firmly that the nails were dark purple, and her eyes fastened upon Mrs. Ellsworth with a wild, vacant stare. Her lips were very white, and moved rapidly. Mrs. Ellsworth bent her head and strove to catch the half-formed words. "Read it again—read it again!" she faintly whispered.

A suspicion of the truth flashed across Mrs. Ellsworth's mind in an instant; but with rare prudence and caution, she kept it to herself.

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They assisted her up stairs, and then Mrs. Ellsworth dismissed Gertrude who had followed them, and closed the door. By this time a flood of tears had come to Adelaide's relief, and her kind friend allowed her to weep in silence. The color slowly came back to her lips again, her eye resumed its natural expression, and at length, with an effort to restrain her emotion, she said quietly:

"You must think my agitation very unreasonable, Mrs. Ellsworth."

"Not by any means, my dear Mrs. Allen. I have only a very slight knowledge of your history, it is true, but I am inclined to think it would be much more singular if you were not agitated. I do not wish to learn anything that you think proper to conceal. But if I can assist or comfort you in any manner, I beg that you will confide in me."

"I will confide in you, Mrs. Ellsworth—I must do so. Oh, you do not know how often, since I have been under your roof, I have longed to tell you the whole of my sad story, and to receive from you the counsel and sympathy that I knew you would not refuse me—but I could not trust myself, and now I presume it is not necessary for me to tell you that I am the runaway wife of Willis Fletcher."

Indeed, Mrs. Ellsworth soon discovered by Adelaide's quivering lip, and the increasing paleness of her cheeks, whenever any allusion was made to her former life, that her history, whatever it might be, was a painful one; and with true kindness she ceased to make any inquiries in reference to it.

At the close of a long, bright summer day, rather more than two years after Adelaide became a member of Mrs. Ellsworth's family, she sat with that lady and her children in the parlor of the beautiful little cottage that Mr. Ellsworth had chosen for their residence while in England.

It was a quiet, home-like room—not too elegant for comfort, nor too stylish for ease and freedom. Frank, if he pleased, might bring his tiny boat, and sit on the carpet while he mended the rudder—no fear of frowns if he did make a few chips; and any might convert the ottoman into a couch for her wax baby, without incurring any danger of a lecture.

Mrs. Ellsworth was reading, and Gertrude, the eldest daughter—a sweet girl of about fifteen—was seated at the piano, warbling some after song as carelessly, and seemingly, with as little effort as a bird.

Adelaide sat by the window—her work had fallen upon her lap—her eyes were fixed upon the golden clouds of sunset, but her thoughts were far away—with her husband. She wondered if he ever thought of her—if the past haunted him as it did her; then, as the glow faded and the clouds became gray and sombre, she pictured to herself a pall and a coffin; and then not, he knew not how well, how truly she had loved him. Death was nothing when compared with their estrangement—and she found almost pleasure in the thought.

"Gertrude, do sing 'Sweet Home'—will you? Oh! I am so glad we are going back—aren't you, Amy?" asked Frank, as he threw away his boat. "I was too dark to see any longer."

"I don't know anything about any home but this," replied little Amy, "and it is very pleasant here."

"What! don't remember anything about America—and are not glad to go back? Oh, but I forgot, you are only a girl," said Master Frank, with a very perceptible sneer at the idea of a girl's patriotism; "but, hush! Gertrude is singing."

Just as the last sweet strains of the familiar air died away, they heard the sound of footsteps on the gravel-walk.

"There, father has come—I know his step," cried Amy, as she sprung to the door.

It was "father," and his pockets were crammed full of papers, magazines, and letters.

"The steamer has come in, and we have more than our usual allowance of good things," he said, after the usual greetings were exchanged; and calling for lights, he began to relieve himself of his welcome burden.

There was nothing for Adelaide, of course; and taking up a magazine, she cut the leaves, and was soon absorbed in its fascinating contents. Her new friends had at first thought of her as a little thing, but she was not so easily satisfied.

Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth and Gertrude were busy with their letters, and Frank and Amy amused themselves with the pictures. At last Mr. Ellsworth broke the silence.

"See here, Mary—here is something that will interest you. Mrs. Willis Fletcher, if not a friend of yours, was a friend of one of your friends, wasn't she?"

His wife threw aside her own letters, and leaning on the back of his chair, looked over his shoulder, and read aloud.

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